

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-45 (Cancelled)

46. (New) A method of monitoring client-usage of digital content provided by a content provider to a client system over a network, said method including the steps of:

receiving a particular digital content from said content provider by said client system;

monitoring the rendering of said digital content by said client system;

logging usage information concerning the actual rendering of said digital content individually; and

performing a security operation to store said logged usage information, wherein said logged usage information includes identification data individually correlating said rendered digital content with a particular user account.

47. (New) The method according to claim 46, further comprising the step of decrypting said digital content prior to the rendering of said digital content.

48. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein said step of performing said security operation comprises additional step of performing at least part of an authentication of said usage information.

49. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein said usage information is maintained in a log, and said step of performing said security operation further comprises the step of storing said log in a tamper-resistant environment associated with said client system.

50. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein said usage information comprises a representation of said rendered digital content and rendering quality information.

51. (New) The method according to claim 50, wherein said quality information comprises at least one of:

- bandwidth of said digital content;
- sample rate said digital content;
- data compression of said digital content;
- resolution of said digital content;
- time information related to rendering of said digital content; and
- information of any disruptions during the rendering of said digital content.

52. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein said usage information comprises at least one of :

- identification of a content-usage device rendering said digital content;
- information on payment of said digital content;
- time information related to rendering of said digital content;
- time information related to transmittal of said digital content from said content provider to said client system; and
- time information related to reception of said digital content by said client system.

53. (New) The method according to claim 46, further comprising the step of forwarding said information from said client system to an external trusted party for storage therein as log entry in a usage log.

54. (New) Client system capable of using digital content provided by a content provider over a network, said content-using client system comprising:

receiving agent for receiving certain digital content from said content provider;

rendering device for rendering said received digital content;

logging agent for monitoring usage information concerning the actual rendering of said digital content by said rendering agent; and

means for performing a security operation to store said usage information, wherein said usage information includes identification data individually correlating said rendered digital content with a particular user account.

55. (New) The client system according to claim 54, further comprising means for decrypting said digital content prior to the rendering of said digital content.

56. (New) The client system according to claim 54, wherein said security operation performing means is configured for performing at least part of an authentication of said usage information.

57. (New) The client system according to claim 54, wherein said usage information comprises a representation of said client-rendered digital content and rendering quality information.

58. (New) The client system according to claim 54, wherein said usage information is maintained in a log in said client system and said security operation performing means is configured for storing said log in a tamper-resistant environment associated with said client system.

59. (New) The client system according to claim 54, wherein said logging agent comprises :

means for tamper-resistantly generating said information; and

means for storing said information as a log entry in a log.

60. (New) The client system according to claim 54, wherein said logging agent further comprises means for forwarding said logged usage information to an external trusted party for storage therein as a log entry in a log.

61. (New) The client system according to claim 54, further comprising:

a first digital rights management (DRM) agent, at least partly implemented in said rendering device, having functionality for enabling rendering of said digital content.

62. (New) The client system according to claim 61, further comprising:

a second DRM agent implemented in said client system, having functionality for enabling reception of said digital content from said content provider; and

means for communication between said first DRM agent and said second DRM agent, said first DRM agent comprising means for transferring a first control signal associated with said information to said second DRM agent and said second DRM agent comprises means for processing signal data associated with said first control signal to generate a second control signal, and means for sending said second control signal to said first DRM agent for controlling the digital-content usage process.

63. (New) The client system according to claim 54, wherein said usage information is stored in a subscriber identity module.

64. (New) A digital rights management system for assisting in the management of digital content provided to a client system over a network, said management system comprising:

means for receiving usage information over said network from said client system, said usage information concerning the rendering of a particular digital content by said client system; and

means for storing said usage information in a log, said information being subjected to at least part of an authentication procedure to enable identification of a particular account with said received usage information for said particular digital content.

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(New) The system according to claim 64, further comprising means for downloading a logging agent into said client system, said logging agent being operable, when executed in said client system, for generating, for each said rendering, information concerning the rendering of said digital content and forwarding said information to said storing means.

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(New) The system according to claim 64, wherein said system further includes means for providing said digital content to said client system as streaming data, said system further comprising:

means for terminating the flow of streaming data to said client system if no usage information has been received during a predetermined period of time.